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Parks and Recreation Minutes 03/13/2001

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting came to order at 7:45 PM in the Whittemore-Robbins House. Commission members in attendance included Bernice Jones, Don Vitters and Joe Carabello. Also present were Superintendent of Recreation Joseph Connelly and Mark Shea of the Department of Public Works.

Public present include: Rink Improvement Committee Chairperson Arthur Ales, Arlington Sports Center Facility Supervisor Bob McKeown, Keith Campbell, Mark Paglia, Nancy Knoff, Steve Swanson and Debbie Hayes.

Rink Improvement Committee Report

Mr. Ales reviewed the previous two committee meetings. The RIC will be holding a wrap-up meeting for rink users at the end of the skating season. The RIC is recommending installing a suggestion box in the rink to solicit feedback. The RIC is talking with AHS art students to redesign the murals hanging in the rink lobby. Some of the issues the RIC have been discussing include parking issues, new floor matting, heating, part-time staff hourly wages and a sign in the lobby detailing RIC improvements. Mr. Ales stated that the committee is working on preparing their recommendation on how to spend this year's improvement budget of \$5,000.

Recommendation for 2001-2002 Arlington Sports Center Ice Rental Fee

Mr. Connelly and Mr. McKeown reviewed the recommendation to increase the ice rental fee \$5 per hour. The new hourly rental fee would go from \$135 an hour to \$140 an hour. Mr. Connelly reviewed the increases in the operating budget and estimated increase in electricity, gas and the minimum wage. Mr. McKeown reviewed the electricity expenses over the last 2 years. Mr. Carabello stated that he felt the fee should be increased more than \$5 to make the fee more comparable with other facilities. The Commission reviewed the hourly rental survey of surrounding rink facilities. The Commission discussed the fee increase. Mr. Connelly suggested an incremental fee increase over the next two years. Mr. Carabello complimented Mr. McKeown and the rink staff regarding recent rink improvements. Mr. Carabello made the following motion:

Move that the Park and Recreation Commission recommend to the Town Manager an increase of the 2001-2002 Arlington Sports Center hourly ice rental rate fee by \$5 and increase the 2002-2003 Arlington Sports Center hourly ice rental rate by a minimum of \$5.

Motion was seconded by Mrs. Jones and approved 3-0.

Hardy School Playground Committee Report

Mrs. Hayes summarized the Committee's background and membership. Mr. Swanson reviewed the proposed playground plans. The Commission and the playground committee discussed the Permanent Building Committee's budget. Mr. Swanson indicated that the playground was estimated at \$250,000 and other outside improvements were estimated at \$88,000. The Commission and Mr. Swanson discussed the funding of the project. Mr. Carabello made the following motion:

Move to send a letter of support to the Town Permanent Building Committee approving the Hardy School Playground renovation plans.

Motioned seconded by Mrs. Jones and approved 3-0.

Parallel Playground Bid Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed the bids for Parallel Playground. The Commission discussed the base bids and alternates. Mr. Carabello suggested asking Alan McClennan for any unused CDBG monies for handicap access. Mr. Vitters stated that if extra monies could not be tracked down by the end of the week the Commission would go ahead with the base bid price of \$69,245 from Candele Construction.

Request from Mass Highway for Safety Perimeter Fence at Thorndike Field

Mr. Shea reviewed the request from ROADS Corp. for the right to place a perimeter safety fence at Magnolia/Thorndike Field during construction. Mr. Shea reviewed with the Commission the placement of the fence. The Commission discussed the placement of fence. The Commission and Mr. Connelly discussed appropriate compensation to the Town. Mr. Shea suggested the cleaning up of the site, which would provide more usable space in the park. Mr. Connelly suggested a donation to the Park Beautification Fund. The Commission discussed the sum of the donation. The Commission decided a \$5,000 donation would allow them to purchase new goal post for the complex. The Commission asked Mr. Shea to draft a letter to ROADS Corp.

Field Article

Mr. Vitters will complete the Scannell Field article and forward it to Mr. Connelly.

Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of February 13, 2001. Mrs. Jones motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Carabello and approved 3-0.

The Commission adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joseph J. Connelly, Supt. of Recreation